AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (canceled)

2.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the server communicates with the patient through a patient interface that comprises an HTML-encoded web page.

3.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a patient database in which the patient-specific data is stored.

4.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a clinical trial database, in which the set of trial-specific criteria is stored.

Claims 5-8 (canceled)

9.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the patient-specific data comprises answers to a questionnaire.

10.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further configured to send at least a portion of the patient-specific data to the clinical trial.

11.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the match result data comprises at least one of clinical trial contact and location information, and the server is configured to send the match result data to the patient.

Claims 12-16 (canceled)

17.   (**Currently amended**) A method of recruiting a patient into a clinical trial, the method comprising:

serving from a server to the patient a questionnaire that includes at least one clinical trial eligibility question;

receiving at the server from the patient patient-specific data that includes an

answer to the at least one clinical trial eligibility question, the patient-

specific data comprising at least one of: disease of concern, demographic

data, drug classes of interest, prior therapies, specific drugs of interest,

years since diagnosis, stage of disease, phase of clinical trial, and

concomitant diseases;

sending the patient-specific data from the server to a security layer;

sending the patient-specific data from the security layer to a matcher;

preventing direct communication between the server and the matcher;

accessing criteria of one or more clinical trials;

determining using the matcher whether the patient-specific data satisfies the

criteria of one or more clinical trials, thereby generating match result data

in the matcher;

sending match result data from the matcher to the security layer;

in the security layer, removing proprietary trial information from the match result

data, thereby generating sanitized match result data;

sending the sanitized match result data to the patient;

inviting the patient to participate in a clinical trial for which the criteria have been

determined to be satisfied, if any; and

if the patient chooses to participate, registering the patient in a database.

18.   (canceled)

19.   (**Currently amended**) A computer system for recruiting a patient into a clinical

trial, the system comprising at least one processor programmed with ~~components~~

~~configured as~~ at least a server application, a matcher application, and a security

layer, wherein:

~~a~~ the server application is configured to: ~~which:~~

request[[s]] patient-specific data from the patient, the patient-specific data

requested including clinical trial eligibility data that comprises at

least one of: disease of concern, demographic data, drug classes of

interest, prior therapies, specific drugs of interest, years since

diagnosis, stage of disease, phase of clinical trial, and concomitant

diseases;

collect[[s]] the patient-specific data from the patient; and

send[[s]] match result data to the patient;

~~a~~ the matcher application is configured to be responsive to the patient's clinical

trial eligibility data and to trial-specific criteria corresponding to the

clinical trial to:

determine whether a match exists between the patient and the clinical trial;

and

generate the match result data; and

~~a~~ the security layer is configured to: ~~which:~~

prevent[[s]] direct communication between the server and the matcher;

receive[[s]] the patient-specific data from the server;

send[[s]] the patient's clinical trial eligibility data to the matcher; and

receive[[s]] the match result data from the matcher;

remove proprietary trial information from the match result data, thereby

generating sanitized match result data; and

send[[s it]] the sanitized match result data to the server.

20.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the system comprises at

least two computers.

21.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the security layer runs on

one of the computers, and the matcher runs on another computer.

22.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the security layer is so

configured as to send the patient-specific data to the patient database for storage.

23.   (**Currently amended**) A method of determining whether a patient is a candidate

for a clinical trial, comprising:

serving a questionnaire from a server to a patient through a patient interface;

receiving at the server patient eligibility data submitted by the patient in response

to the questionnaire, the patient eligibility data comprising at least one of:

disease of concern, demographic data, drug classes of interest, prior

therapies, specific drugs of interest, years since diagnosis, stage of disease,

phase of clinical trial, and concomitant diseases;

sending the patient eligibility data from the server to a security layer;

sending the patient eligibility data from the security layer to a matcher;

in the matcher:

determining whether a match exists between the patient and the clinical

trial by comparing the patient eligibility data to a set of trial criteria

specific for the clinical trial; and

returning match result information to the security layer;

in the security layer, removing proprietary trial information from the match result

information, thereby generating sanitized match result information;

sending to the server the <u>sanitized</u> match result information thus returned from the

security layer; and

serving to the patient through the patient interface the <u>sanitized</u> match result

information thus sent to the server.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising serving at

least one of clinical trial contact and location information to the patient through

the patient interface.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising serving a

registration questionnaire to the patient through the patient interface after a match

has been determined to exist between the patient and the clinical trial.

26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising receiving a set

of registration information from the patient.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising adding the

registration information to a patient database.

28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising sending at

least part of the set of registration information to the clinical trial.

29.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising comparing, in

the matcher, the patient eligibility data to a second set of trial criteria and

determining whether a match continues to exist between the patient and the

clinical trial.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the security layer and the

matcher run on separate computers.

31.   (Previously presented) A method of determining whether a patient is a candidate

for a clinical trial, comprising:

serving a first questionnaire from a server to a patient through a patient interface;

receiving at the server a first set of patient eligibility data submitted by the patient

in response to the first questionnaire, the first set of patient eligibility data

comprising at least one of: disease of concern, demographic data, drug

classes of interest, prior therapies, specific drugs of interest, years since

diagnosis, stage of disease, phase of clinical trial, and concomitant

diseases;

sending the first set of patient eligibility data from the server to a security layer;

sending the first set of patient eligibility data from the security layer to a matcher;

in the matcher:

determining whether a match exists between the patient and the plurality

of clinical trials by comparing the first set of patient eligibility data

to a set of generic trial criteria generic to a plurality of clinical

trials; and

returning generic match result information to the security layer;

if a match exists between the patient and the plurality of clinical trials:

serving a second questionnaire from the server to the patient through the

patient interface;

receiving at the server a second set of patient eligibility data submitted by

the patient in response to the second questionnaire, the second set

of patient eligibility data being different from the first set of patient

eligibility data and comprising at least one of: disease of concern,

demographic data, drug classes of interest, prior therapies, specific

drugs of interest, years since diagnosis, stage of disease, phase of

clinical trial, and concomitant diseases;

sending the second set of patient eligibility data from the server to the

security layer;

sending the second set of patient eligibility data from the security layer to

the matcher;

in the matcher:

determining whether a match exists between the patient and the

one clinical trial by comparing the second set of patient

eligibility data to a set of specific trial criteria specific to

one of the plurality of clinical trials; and

returning specific match result information to the security layer;

if a match exists between the patient and the one clinical trial:

in the security layer, removing proprietary trial information from

the specific match result information, thereby generating

sanitized specific match result information;

sending ~~information about the one clinical trial~~ the sanitized

specific match result information from the security layer to

the server; and

serving the ~~clinical trial~~ sanitized specific match result information

to the patient through the patient interface.

32.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the security layer sends

the patient-specific data to the patient database for storage only after the system

determines whether a match exists between the patient and the clinical trial.

33.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the security layer sends

the patient's clinical trial eligibility data, but not other patient-specific data, to the

matcher.

Claims 34-44 (Canceled)